

The Heart 201 AED Program

Village of Dunedin, Unit 201
(Includes the streets of Badger, Castlewood, Nation,
Nomad, Ivawood, Yates, and O'Brien)



Read to learn:

- **What is it?**
- **Why do we need it?**
 - **How will it work?**
- **Who will be responsible?**
- **How much will it cost?**

What is the proposed program?

We have purchased two AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators) which will be placed in waterproof cabinets in strategic locations in Unit 201. We also will be training 16 residents of Unit 201 to provide rapid response to anyone who experiences a sudden cardiac or respiratory arrest in our neighborhood. We would also subscribe to Ready Alert, the system used to contact responders.

Why do we need an AED program?

Even though we are not far away from a fire station, we usually can get local residents to a cardiac emergency faster than the fire department. In addition, we cannot be sure that medics will be in a station when the need arises, and when that happens, the emergency team may have to come from a greater distance.

The AED combined with immediate CPR has already saved the lives of people in the Villages. For every one minute delay in starting CPR and using an AED, the chance of survival decreases by 10%. Thus, if the medics arrive in seven minutes there is only a 30% chance of survival if a person has not had CPR administered. On the other hand, if a community responder arrives within 90 seconds (a typical response time in drills), the person's chance of survival goes up to 85%!

CPR BUYS TIME. THE AED BUYS LIFE!

What does the AED unit do?

When sudden cardiac arrest occurs, the heart starts to flutter (fibrillate) but not enough to pump blood. CPR (chest compression) makes the heart pump and keeps oxygen flowing to the body, but will not “start” the heart. The AED is a battery operated device that determines whether a heart needs to be defibrillated (shocked) into resuming a normal rhythm. It gives audible commands and is so simple to use that anyone who understands English can be taught its use in a few minutes.

How would the program work?

There are 106 homes in the HEART 201 community. We would like to have at least 30 persons trained as responders. The Villages Public Safety will provide CPR training free of charge. The more responders trained, the better our community will be able to handle an emergency situation. Each responder household would have ReadyAlert service. When a cardiac arrest occurs, someone calls 911. The 911 operator, in addition to determining the nature of the emergency and dispatching the medics, sees on their screen that the cardiac arrest occurred in the HEART 201 Community and sends a message to ReadyAlert at the same time that the message is going to the fire department. ReadyAlert, in turn, then immediately sends a message to all the responders in our community. While one or more responders would go immediately to the home, others would go to the AED unit and take it where needed. The AEDs are stored in a locked cabinet. All the responders will have keys.

Who would be responsible?

The Villages Public Safety Department oversees and assists the program. They will order the equipment under their state contract, train the volunteers and provide continuing updates on training and equipment.

HEART 201 is the organization that provides the local management of the program. All the members of HEART 201 are residents of Unit 201 and volunteer their time to manage the program. The responders are also volunteers who are trained by The Villages Public Safety Department. In addition to CPR training, all responders receive training on the roles and responsibilities when responding including the coordinated activities they should perform at a victim's home.

What are the costs?

Following the advice provided by the Villages Public Safety Department, we have purchased two AEDs and are budgeting for 16 responder households (the ReadyAlert program charges an annual fee for each responder household). In addition, we will have expenses associated with installing the AEDs and setting depreciation money aside to pay for new materials when needed. Funding all this for four years will cost about \$7,000. Therefore, we are asking for a contribution of a nominal amount from each home in Unit 201. This will not be an annual request, but a one-time amount for at least the first four years.

The AED itself is warranted for seven years, while the batteries are warranted for four years, so if either fails during the first four years, they will be replaced at no cost to us.

HEART 201 has established a bank account to pay for start-up expenses, as well as starting a fund so that money is available to purchase new equipment when the old equipment has passed its useful life.

SOME QUESTIONS

What if some people don't participate?

Because of liability concerns, **EVERY HOME** in Unit 201 will be covered in the case of an emergency regardless of whether they contributed.

Why should I participate?

The program needs your participation. It lowers the costs for all of us and increases your chance of survival if you go into cardiac arrest.

Do I have to be a volunteer?

No. Just if you want to.

Is the AED difficult to use?

It is virtually foolproof, and easy to use. Anyone who understands English can use it.

Do I have any legal liability?

Florida's Good Samaritan laws protect any lay person who goes to the aid of a person in distress. Since the AED only "shocks" people who are clinically dead (i.e. not breathing), there is no risk of hurting someone. Florida also has two laws that indemnify individuals who use AEDs.

What about mouth-to-mouth?

Mouth-to-mouth is no longer recommended when doing CPR.

How long is the CPR/AED training?

2½ to 3 hours. The Villages Public Safety Dept. will schedule a training class (or classes) at no charge for those individuals who are part of the community wishing to be responders.

Would we respond to all emergencies?

No, just cardiac/respiratory arrests and just those in Unit 201.

The 2014 Florida Statutes
Chapter 768
NEGLIGENCE

768.1325 **Cardiac Arrest Survival Act; immunity from civil liability.—**

(1) This section may be cited as the “Cardiac Arrest Survival Act.”

(2) As used in this section:

(a) “Perceived medical emergency” means circumstances in which the behavior of an individual leads a reasonable person to believe that the individual is experiencing a life-threatening medical condition that requires an immediate medical response regarding the heart or other cardiopulmonary functioning of the individual.

(b) “Automated external defibrillator device” means a lifesaving defibrillator device that:

1. Is commercially distributed in accordance with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

2. Is capable of recognizing the presence or absence of ventricular fibrillation, and is capable of determining without intervention by the user of the device whether defibrillation should be performed.

3. Upon determining that defibrillation should be performed, is able to deliver an electrical shock to an individual.

(c) “Harm” means damage or loss of any and all types, including, but not limited to, physical, nonphysical, economic, noneconomic, actual, compensatory, consequential, incidental, and punitive damages or losses.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, and except as provided in subsection (4), **any person who uses or attempts to use an automated external defibrillator device on a victim of a perceived medical emergency, without objection of the victim of the perceived medical emergency, is immune from civil liability for any harm resulting from the use or attempted use of such device.**

History.—s. 1, ch. 2001-76; s. 3, ch. 2004-345; s. 3, ch. 2004-353; s. 3, ch. 2006-206; s. 2, ch. 2008-101.



For further information contact:

**Rob Wright
President, HEART 201
301-351-4649**

For general information, you may also contact:

**Lt. John Longacre
The Villages Public Safety Department
352-205-8280 ext. 2910**



The Villages Public Safety Department
3035 Morse Boulevard
The Villages, Florida 32163
352-205-8280